

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: KEVIN WILLIAMS
Año Nuevo State Reserve
(650) 879-2025

ELEPHANT SEAL GUIDED WALKS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS AT AÑO NUEVO STATE RESERVE

Schools throughout California may make reservations, beginning Saturday, October 5, 2002 for student groups to visit the Northern Elephant Seal rookery at Año Nuevo State Reserve between December 16, 2002 and March 31, 2003. Elementary and secondary school groups may reserve discounted **School Group Walks** led by State Park volunteer naturalists who are well versed in the natural and cultural aspects of the reserve.

These popular three to four mile walks, over rolling sand dunes, last about two and a half to three hours and are considered moderately strenuous. School Group Guided Walks are available weekday mornings only and schools are encouraged to participate in this unique educational program.

School Group Walk reservations may be made by phoning the California State Park's reservation service at 1-800-444-4445, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Saturday, October 5, 2002. Teachers are advised to book early, since School Group Walk reservations normally sell out by late morning on the first day of sales. The School Group Walk ticket fee is \$21.00 and allows entry for a group of 20 students and 2 chaperones, for a total group of 22. Two adult chaperones are required per ticket. Each reservation phone call is limited to reservations for four School Group Walk tickets.

School Group Guided Walks operate rain or shine. Refunds are issued only when the Reserve staff must cancel a walk. There are no ticket refunds or exchanges for inclement weather, cancellations, no shows, or late arrivals.

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Elephant Seal Walk reservations for families, individuals, or groups will be accepted beginning October 20, up to 56 days in advance, or as late as 1 day prior to the reservation date. For reservations, phone the California State Parks reservation service at 1-800-444-4445, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years days. Elephant Seal Walks will be conducted daily from December 15, through March 31, 2003, except December 25, Saturday, January 25, 2003.

Disabled persons may make reservations by phoning 650-879-2033 beginning December 2, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. For more information on the elephant seals, the guided walk program, and other features of the Reserve, phone the Reserve at (650) 879-2025, or (650) 879-0227 for recorded information. Visit the Reserve's web site at www.anonuevo.org.